

**CLAIMS**

1. A software revision system comprising:

software-distributing means for distributing multiple items of software  
5 revision data; and

software-processing means for maintaining software and performing  
processing based on the maintained software as well as for rewriting the  
maintained software by using the software revision data that is distributed  
with the software-distributing means,

10 wherein the software-distributing means distributes the software  
revision data including revision information relative to other software  
revision data after a period of time of its application; and

wherein the software-processing means maintains the revision  
information included in the software revision data when rewriting the software  
15 by using the software revision data, and rewrites the software including the  
revision information if the revision information on the software revision  
data is maintained.

2. The software revision system according to claim 1, wherein the  
20 software-distributing means distributes update data that indicates a part  
to be revised of the software and version-up data that is new revised software,  
as the multiple items of software revision data, and allows the revision  
information of the version-up data after a period of time of its application  
to be included in the update data; and

25 wherein the software-processing means maintains the revision  
information included in the update data if rewriting the software by using  
the update data, and if rewriting the software by using the version-up data,

rewrites the software including the revision information when the revision information relative to the version-up data is maintained.

3. The software revision system according to claim 1, wherein the  
5 software-distributing means distributes the multiple items of software revision data to the software-processing means via multiple paths.

4. The software revision system according to claim 1, wherein the  
software-distributing means distributes update data that indicates a part  
10 to be revised of the software and version-up data that is new revised software, as the multiple items of software revision data, and allows the revision information of the version-up data after a period of time of its application to be included in the update data, and distributes the update data including the revision information of the version-up data after a period of time of  
15 its application and the version-up data to the software-processing means via multiple paths.

5. A software distribution apparatus comprising:

software-creating means for creating multiple items of software  
20 revision data with each item of the software revision data including revision information relative to other software revision data after a period of time of its application; and

software-disseminating means for disseminating the software created in the software-creating means.

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6. The software distribution apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the software-creating means distributes update data that indicates a part

to be revised of the software and version-up data that is new revised software, as the multiple items of software revision data, the update data being distributed with it including the revision information of the version-up data after a period of time of its application.

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7. The software distribution apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the software-disseminating means disseminates the multiple items of software revision data via multiple paths.

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8. The software distribution apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the software-creating means distributes update data that indicates a part to be revised of the software and version-up data that is new revised software, as the multiple items of software revision data, the update data being distributed with it including the revision information of the version-up data after a period of time of its application; and wherein the software-

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disseminating means disseminates the update data including the revision information of the version-up data after a period of time of its application and the version-up data via multiple paths.

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9. A software-processing apparatus operating by using software that is rewritably stored, comprising:

revision-information-processing means for, when software revision data includes revision information relative to other software revision data after a period of time of its application, separating and maintaining the revision information;

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rewriting means for rewriting the stored software by using the software revision data; and

data-revising means for supplying to the rewriting means the software revision data including the revision information thereof when maintaining the revision information relative to the software revision data in the revision-information-processing means.

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10. The software-processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein, when the update data indicating a part to be revised of the software includes revision information of the version-up data that is new revised software after a period of time of its application, the revision-information-processing means  
10 separates and maintains the revision information;

wherein the data-revising means supplies to the rewriting means the version-up data including the revision information thereof when maintaining the revision information relative to the version-up data in the revision-information-processing means; and

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wherein the rewriting means rewrites the software stored in the storage means by using any one of the update data and the version-up data including the revision information.

11. A software revision method comprising:

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a software-distributing step of distributing multiple items of software revision data with each item of software revision data including revision information relative to other software revision data after a period of time of its application; and

a software-processing step of, when rewriting software by using the  
25 software revision data, maintaining the revision information if the revision information is included in the software revision data, and rewriting the software including the revision information if the revision information on

the software revision data is maintained.